

The Church of God



Evangel



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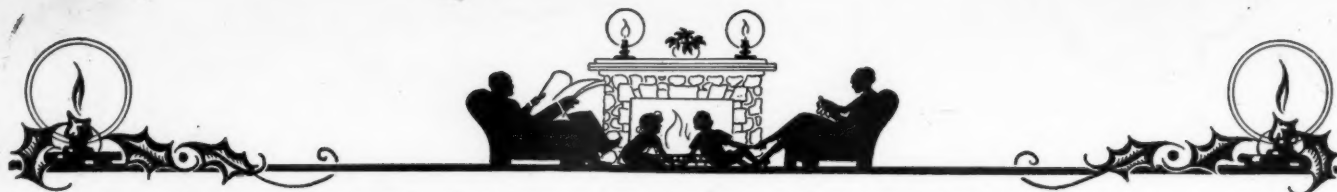
To know Him as He is today.
Not as a manger babe,
But as the One
Who lived and died
And lives again,
Enthroned and reigning
In my heart;

To sense the need of men
Who only know
The tinsel and the rushing
Of the crowds,
Who celebrate a day
And nothing more,
Because to them
He slumbers yet in Bethle-
hem;

To love Him and His Word
Above all else,
And loving, wish to tell men
Everywhere
The tidings of redemption
... THIS IS CHRISTMAS!

—Anonymous





...EDITORIALS...

BIRTHDAY OFFERING FOR JESUS

Year 1947—\$19.47

SPECIAL FOR MISSIONS

Let every Sunday School share in a march and give in an offering in the amount of \$19.47, one penny for each year since Jesus' birth, and give it to missions. Let all join in singing "Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday, dear Jesus; Happy Birthday to you!"

I'm sure if Jesus were here to receive the offering personally, He would say again, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This was the theme of His message before the crucifixion and after His resurrection. The commission still stands today. What could be more fitting! Give the most ideal gift—a special offering to Jesus that others might hear the gospel and be saved.

The more important reason why we should make a special offering to missions now is because the Missions Department is in need of finances.

Immediately after the war, doors began to open in many fields. The Missions Board and Executive Missions Secretary have been trying to take the message as far as they can to all these soul-gripping calls. The constant rising cost of living has drawn heavily on their funds. You know how it has been in the United States. It has been tremendously heavy in many of the fields, so that an offering at this time will be greatly appreciated.

Our Executive Missions Secretary, Rev. J. Stewart Brinsfield, is making a special personal appeal to you by letter in behalf of missions, and surely this is your best opportunity to share your Christmas with those who need and will appreciate it most.

The credit for the idea of having a special birthday offering for Jesus and singing "Happy birthday to you" goes to Mrs. Mary Anna Arnold, evangelist of the Church of God at Memphis, Tennessee, where Brother J. D. Free is the pastor. The thought came as she saw birthday offerings being given in Sunday School.

PURCHASE SCHOOL NOTES

The Supreme Council decided that inasmuch as we have not as yet sold the college property in Sevierville, and we have a note due January 1, 1948, on our college property here in Cleveland, we should ask you to help us. Our state overseers and youth directors have systematically organized their efforts in extending to you this invitation to invest your money to help a worthy cause and at the same time effect a savings to you for the future. These Church of God notes are very much like the United States Government Bonds, especially the "E" series. They pay the same rate of interest after three years. We all have, through these years, worked together and God has especially helped us, so that we can truthfully say the Church has enjoyed an outstanding success. (Read Reverend H. L. Chesser's report for our last fiscal year in the next issue—the New Year's issue.)

Below I give you what one of our state overseers has to say about our school notes.

WHY BUY SCHOOL NOTES?

This writer does not claim to be an educator, nor would he ask anyone to accept his record as an example of loyalty to the Church of God Bible Training School and College (now Lee College), but, he does have a deep sense of debt and gratitude to God, the Church, and school for what it has done for hundreds of our young men and women, as well as himself.

This is Saturday night, December 6, and as I sit in the living room of Georgia's state parsonage and think seriously of the plans of our ministers and churches to join the whole Church in selling to our constituency the sum of \$280,000 worth of "School Notes," I ask myself, "Why sell school notes?"

While answering my own question, I thought that it might be well to pass some of the answers on to others.

1. The Church has and will need our Bible Training School and College. Many of our precious brethren who are now serving the Church in responsible places were uneducated when they received their call or commission to preach this glorious gospel. They needed help. Good old B.T.S. gave them what they needed. Now hundreds of them take their places along with the noble of this earth and preach and teach the simple message of salvation to the lost and dying.

There were then and are now other schools of learning, some good and some bad, some religious and some not; none teach the Church of God doctrine except B.T.S.

2. It is not a new thing for schools to need help. Some of you who read this can remember when Rev. E. C. Clark came to our school in 1932 and offered a few hundred of his books to us, the faculty (then three teachers) and students (then about 100), to sell so as to begin a building fund. At that time we were in the basement of the old auditorium in North Cleveland. Rev. J. H. Walker, superintendent; Mrs. E. L. Moore, teacher; Reverend Otis L. McCoy, professor of music. I was the janitor.

We organized and sold the books. Soon our school moved upstairs. Happy day—we could then have more room, a study hall, classrooms and studio.

Then came the opportunity to buy our Sevierville property. Now we own the beautiful Lee College in Cleveland, Tennessee, our Headquarters town. Other schools have had their beginning and from time to time have moved to bigger and better quarters, so we are no exception.

3. We have no endowment funds (except the net profits from our Publishing House). Almost all of the colleges and universities have some funds from which to draw. (God will send the day when the Church of God Bible School will be on its feet financially.) Vanderbilt has an endowment of \$25,043,000. Peabody College for teachers has \$4,947,698. Fisk (colored) has \$2,772,589. Columbia University has \$85,749,434. Others could be mentioned, but

(Continued on page 3)

BIBLE GLINTS ^{and} Late Events

BY THE EDITOR



I AM THE BIBLE

"I am the recorder of the gate.

"I speak every language under the sun, and enter every corner of the earth.

"I bring information, inspiration, and recreation to all mankind.

"I am the enemy of ignorance and slavery, the ally of enlightenment and liberty.

"I treat all persons alike, regardless of race, color, creed, or condition.

"I have power to stretch man's vision, to deepen his feeling, and enrich his life.

"I am a true friend, a wise counselor, and faithful guide.

"I am as silent as gravitation, pliant and powerful as the electric currents, and enduring as the everlasting hills.

"I am the Bread of Life with the message of salvation for every lost soul.

"I am the Bible."

—The War Cry.

BIBLES FOR FREEDOM TRAIN

Each of the forty-seven members of the personnel of the Freedom Train was presented with a specially inscribed Bible immediately following the coast-to-coast broadcast, "The Book Behind America," by Dr. Francis C. Stifler, of the American Bible Society, who spoke from the Freedom Train on Friday, September 26, when the train was on exhibition at Grand Central Terminal, New York City. James V. Claypool (Captain ChCUSNR), of the American Bible Society, personally handed the Bibles to the twenty-seven officers and enlisted men of the U.S. Marine Corps, who are a part of the train's escort. The Bibles were inscribed with the name of the recipient, the name of the train, and the date, 1947.

A larger Bible was prepared by the Bible Society for the lounge library of the Freedom Train. Symbolizing, as it does, the source of all democratic thinking, the Bible will be one of the permanent fixtures of the train, as it covers more than 33,000 miles in its travels that touch all of the forty-eight States of the country.

Dr. Stifler broadcasted a second time from the Freedom Train on Friday evening. The title of the address was "Freedom's Textbook." Both broadcasts were heard over the facilities of the American Broadcasting Company.

A little boy came to his father, looking very much in earnest, and asked, "Father, is Satan bigger than I am?" "Yes, my boy," said the father. "Is he bigger than you, Father?" "Yes, my boy, he is bigger than your father." The boy looked surprised, but thought again, and then asked, "Is he bigger than Jesus?" "No, my boy," answered the father, "Jesus is bigger than he is." The little fellow, as he turned away, said, with a smile, "Then I am not afraid of him." "Little children, . . . greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."—*Hymn and Revival Anecdotes.*

WHY BUY SCHOOL NOTES?

(Continued from page 2)

it is enough to say that none of them can exist long on merely board and tuition.

4. This note sale is very much akin to our government bonds. It is good business for the government, it will do for us. We are loaning money to the Church to pay for value received, helping to prepare the way for our children and those who will follow us, and at the same time saving something for the future.

5. While most of us are making more money than ever, we will want to save some. If a depression follows this financial boom, we can send our children to college with this (some will transfer some of their savings to this school note).

6. According to the judgment of the Council of Twelve, together with the general officials, it is the best way to finance the January 1, 1948, payment on our property.

7. Each note is backed by the entire Church. We will show our faith in and love for the Church and school by buying "school notes."—A. V. Beabe.

—O—

Recently I reported the number of state overseers who had passed away during their tenure of office. Unfortunately, I missed Brother J. M. Viney's name. Brother Viney was overseer of Oklahoma in 1923 and 1924. He was appointed as overseer of Arkansas in 1925 and died just before the 1926 Assembly, as he was making preparations to go to the Assembly. I am very sorry of this mistake.

Christmas Day

Dost Thou in a manger lie, Who has all created,
Stretching infant hands on high, Saviour, long awaited?
If a monarch, where Thy state? Where Thy court on Thee
to wait?

Royal purple, where?

Here no regal pomp we see; naught but need and penury:
Why thus cradled here?

Pitying love for fallen man brought Me down thus low;
For a race deep lost in sin, came I unto woe.
By this lowly birth of Mine, sinner, riches shall be thine,
Matchless gifts and free;

Willingly this yoke I take, and this sacrifice I make,
Heaping joys for thee.

Fervent praise would I to Thee evermore be raising;
For Thy wondrous love to me, Thee be ever praising.
Glory, glory be for ever unto that most bounteous Giver,
And that loving Lord!

Better witness to Thy worth, purer praise than ours on
earth,
Angel's songs afford.

Jean Mauburn, 1494

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

to everyone everywhere. Our
entire staff sends sincere greet-
ings to you on this day we all
celebrate in memory of God's
greatest Gift—the gift of His
Son to this world.—J. H. Walker,
Editor-in-Chief.

NOTICES

To Whom It May Concern: I am
now ready for revivals. Anyone de-
siring my services may contact me.—
Mrs. Katie Tucker, 411 S. Maple St.,
Columbia, South Carolina.

Friday and Saturday, January 9,
10, will be set aside as days of fasting
and prayer for God's blessings upon
the Bahamas state convention.—W. R.
Franks.

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Port au Prince, Haiti, February 1-8

Christ Came

By J. Stewart Brinsfield

Text: St. John 1:11-13, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

The Christmas bells will ring out for a tired world this year, to remind us once again that the love and good will which moved the heart of God in the giving of His Son is constant and abiding, and is freely offered to all men for all time.

More than nineteen hundred years have passed since the Prince of Peace came. Some may say that His coming was a failure; that He has not achieved His objective of bringing peace to the world. Many will point out that in a single generation mankind has been scourged unmercifully by two world wars. Especially are we all mindful of the fact that the most recent conflagration was a holocaust so terrible as to leave the world in a state of political, economical, and spiritual chaos. Our hearts are still bleeding because of the loss of loved ones. Our grief is freshened by the returning of the bodies of friends and relatives who fell on distant battlefields. There are fresh graves in our home-town cemeteries. These are all grim reminders that our world is not one of peace.

No sooner had the smoke of the conflict of World War II cleared away than the horizon was dimmed by clouds of an ominous, impending future struggle. Almost everyone feels that the world is too tired, too sick, too hungry, too naked, and too cold to go through another period of open hostility—another shooting war. These same people seriously doubt that another war can be avoided.

In the light of these facts, the enemies of Christ tell us He has failed, that He is not the Prince of Peace, that the prophecy of the princely prophet Isaiah was not fulfilled in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. While it is

true that the followers of Christ are not unmindful of, or unsympathetic with the horrible cost in life, in limb, and in treasure, of recent struggles, nor do we minimize the tragedy, the unspeakable suffering that has resulted from these conflicts—the followers of Christ are sobered by reality and they admit that Christians have fallen short of the glory of God in a measure—yet, we affirm with all our hearts that the coming of Christ as the Son of God has accomplished and will accomplish all His claims and all the claims of those who, in glowing terms, foresaw and foretold His coming and the effect of His life and His ministry, His labors and His love, the effectiveness and charm of His personality as He walked among men assuaging their fears, cooling their fevered brows, blessing infants and comforting the sad. These accounts in the life of the Man of Sorrows are still the music of consolation, of faith and of hope, music that has been heard by every generation, music that inspires and blesses a troubled world again, even at such a time as this.

In the words of St. John, "He came unto His own"; that is, to the Jews, but they rejected their long-promised "Messiah." They hanged their King on a roughly hewn cross. They forced Him to die among thieves outside the city walls of Jerusalem. Their Messiah was disdained. They have had no king nor national life since that time. Their house has been left unto them desolate. They have been a hissing and a byword and have been dispersed among all nations of the world. Their suffering and anxiety have provoked a sympathetic feeling in the hearts of sympathetic humanity. Even today, their home land, known to us as the "Holy



J. Stewart Brinsfield

Land," is a center of hostilities, of intrigue, of treachery, and of civil war. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

Let us consider for a moment the next statement by the apostle John, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." So the peace-giving, heart-warming salvation of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is a personal and intimate individual relationship to God. It is not something that is thrust as a state religion upon mankind. Christianity is not social regimentation. It is not a religion of compulsion; but Christianity is designed by the same God who made man a dignified free moral agent. Therefore, it is safe and fair to say that the Prince of Peace reigns in the heart of every man who willingly and freely accepts Him. This kingdom of peace is something that is established within the kingdom of every soul. It is an inherent and resident abiding greatness that comes from our personal acceptance of Him who is the life and light, in fact, the very embodiment of peace and good will. It is the light that shines more and more unto the perfect day. It will survive and it will triumph, because it is the gift of God and it is eternal.

At this Christmas season, when we hear the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and

(Continued on page 16)



Bethlehem as seen from one of the high church towers.—This picture was taken by the author.

Bethlehem

of Judea

Rev. D. B. Hotfield, Jerusalem, Palestine

In the language of the shepherds I say, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass." Perhaps you would like to come with me at this sacred season and let us have a visit together to the "little town of Bethlehem."

We shall begin our journey from the Jaffa Gate of the old city, for it is here the Jerusalem-Bethlehem Road starts. We descend into a valley called Hinnom and, crossing its bed by a large pool called the Sultan's Pool and identified by some as being the pool mentioned by Hezekiah as the lower pool of Gihon the other side of the valley, we pass the Jerusalem Railway and continue through a fast-growing and new suburb of Jerusalem called Upper Bak'a. We soon enter a fertile valley which is pointed out as the Valley of Rephaim, where the boundary lines separated the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. This valley is also called the Valley of Giants, where the Philistines often camped when in battle with Israel. Here David inflicted two defeats on

the Philistines. 2 Samuel 5:22.

About half way to Bethlehem on the left we see a well. It is called the Well of the Magi, or of the Star, because here the Magi saw again the star that had guided them on their journey from the East. After they had departed from before Herod, they are said to have sat down at this well and there picked up the star again, which went before them till it came and stood over the place where the young child was. This is also called the well of the Virgin Mary, where she rested on her way to Bethlehem. A legend has it that the water sprang suddenly out of a rock to quench the thirst of the Virgin Mary. In the seventeenth century it is said that pilgrims saw here a large terebinth tree and another legend states that it lowered its branches to envelope the Holy Family in its shade.

Soon we reach the top of a high plateau from whence we can see both Jerusalem and Bethlehem and on clear days the Dead Sea, also. On this

plateau is built a Greek convent called the Convent of St. Elias, for it is believed that here Elijah rested while in flight from Jezebel. (I attended a Greek Orthodox Church wedding at this convent this past summer.)

Leaving this convent, we descend from the plateau and, looking to the left, we see Franks Mountain, the ancient Hedodion, where King Herod built himself a palace and took refuge there from his brother Philip, who sought his life because he had taken his wife. This is also the same mountain where David hid while fleeing from King Saul, and David was in this mountain in a cave when he cut off a piece of Saul's garment while he slept there overnight. Looking to the right, we see a town located on the side of a hill, which bears the name of Beit Jala. It is supposed to be the home of Saul at the time Samuel anointed him king of Israel.

Near to Bethlehem on the right of the road we approach the tomb of Rachel the wife of Jacob. He had traveled from Bethel with his family and as they neared Ephrata, which is Bethlehem's old name, Rachel became sick and it was here that Benjamin was born. But Rachel died in giving birth to Benjamin and Jacob buried her near Bethlehem. Her tomb is standing until this day. Mention is made in Jeremiah of Rachel weeping for her children. "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not." This has reference to the infamous slaughter by Herod when he heard that a child had been born who was destined to be the King of the Jews. Rachel represents the sorrow of the mothers of Bethlehem. Beyond, a short distance, the road forks. The road to the right leads to Hebron, but we must take the one to the left which leads us to the outskirts of the city. As we enter, we pass a well on the left. It is called David's well, "The well of Bethlehem which is by the gate," from which David's three mighty men brought water to their beloved leader at the risk of their own lives. They had to pass through the hostile host of Philistines who were encamped there.

We continue into the city, and we may choose to go either by the old road, which is a very narrow street

and leads us by the market place, or we may enter by the way of the new street, which leads to the left and circles the hill coming up in front of the Church of the Nativity.

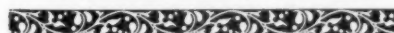
Bethlehem is located about six miles from the center of the city of Jerusalem and is situated not only among the hills of Judea but stands on a prominent rocky height at about 2,550 feet above sea level. Until recent years, the city is said to have occupied only the top of the ridge on which it stood, but it is spreading out now in every direction. The sloping hills around Bethlehem are covered with vine-, olive-, almond-, and fig-clad terraces that reach down to the valleys. In the winter and spring, the countryside is beautiful with green, because of the winter rains. So are all the hills, valleys and plains of Palestine covered with beautiful flowers at this time of the year, but during the summer when there is no rain the heat causes the beauty of the country to fade.

In the words of the prophet Micah, we have this: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." Apparently, Bethlehem was small and of little or of no notice in the days of Micah, but how true is the prophetic word even to the minutest detail! All the predictions of the Bible are true and must come to pass according to God's special designed time. Little Bethlehem has risen to the height of world notice, and of no other city does the world sing praises and exalt its name as it does the town of Bethlehem. It is all because that out of it came forth the Redeemer of mankind.

Ephratah is the old name of the city and means fruitful. Fruitful was the city of David and prophetic indeed are its names, for in it was born the Word that was made flesh. "Bethlehem" means the "House of Bread." So the House of Bread gave us Him who has bestowed His sacred body as the food of the human family. It is no less prophetic that in the design of God He who was the Bread of Life should have been laid, at His birth, in a manger, a place for food.

Throughout the pages of Holy Writ runs the narrative of wondrous and interesting things centering in and around Bethlehem. Here lived and gleaned the pious Ruth, the ancestor of Christ. Here, like the shepherd of a later age, David, a shepherd boy,

tended his father's sheep. Bethlehem was the home of Jesse and here the prophet Samuel anointed David king. Bethlehem's greatest story was told seven hundred and fifty years before it took place, which was the wondrous



TODAY IN BETHLEHEM HEAR I

From the Greek of John of Damascus, Died 754.

*Today in Bethlehem hear I
Sweet angel voices singing:
All glory to God on high,
Who peace to earth is bringing.
The Virgin Mary holdeth more
Than highest heaven most holy:
Light shines on what was dark before,
And lifteth up the lowly.*

*God wills that peace should be in earth
And holy exultation:
Sweet Babe, I greet Thy spotless birth
And wondrous incarnation.
Today in Bethlehem hear I
Even in the lowly singing:
With angel words they pierce the sky:
All earth with joy is ringing.*



**FOR SPECIAL FOREIGN MISSIONS CHRISTMAS FEATURE,
PLEASE READ THE EDITORIAL IN THIS ISSUE OF THE EVANGEL.**

Each member of the Missions Board, J. Stewart Brinsfield, the Executive Missions Secretary, and the entire Missions Department wish to extend at this time to the thousands of readers of the Missions Page in the "Evangel" a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we trust the Christ Child will be more real to you at this season than ever before.

and beautiful story of His birth. Micah 5:2. With these words the story of the little town began.

The city has a population now of about ten thousand and is prosperous in its humble way. Its main local industry, aside from cattle raising and agriculture, is the making of religious articles for gifts and souvenirs which they sell to thousands of tourists who visit the city every year. It has many institutions such as monasteries and convents of the Catholic type. There are some Protestant churches there and one that is called the Church of Christmas. The Church of the Nativity stands over the rocky cave which, from the earliest centuries of Christendom, has been held as the cave that was connected to the inn to which Joseph and Mary went on the eve of the first Christmas. It is very likely that this is the exact cave where Jesus was born, and where He was laid in the stone manger. Bethlehem is the world's most sacred shrine and to it pilgrims come from most parts of the world at Christmas time to worship at the Church of the Nativity. I plan to visit with these pilgrims and join in the worship of the Christ of Bethlehem this year at Christmas time.

In about one hour's walk one may reach from Bethlehem the shepherds' field, which can be seen from the city. In entering it one must pass through the field of Boaz where Ruth first met her future husband. It was in this field that the visitation of the angelic host imparted to the lowly shepherds the transcending news of His birth, breaking forth in strains of heavenly music and singing "Joy to the world, the Lord is come."

The Coming of the Christ Child

By Mrs. Ruth Starnes

Matthew 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

The coming of Christ into the world is indeed a marvelous event. His coming is the theme of the entire Bible. As early as Genesis 3:15, God said to the serpent, "And I shall put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." God the Father was here speaking of Christ's coming into the world. Moses said in Deut. 18:15, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken."

Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." These and many other promises of Christ's coming were given in the Old Testament. Many decades passed before these prophecies of Old Testament prophets were fulfilled. But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, born of a virgin. He was Jesus, our Immanuel, God with us!

At the time of Christ's birth, Au-



gustus Caesar was Emperor of the Roman Empire and Herod the Great was king of Judea but subject to Rome. This Roman dominion was irritating. The very presence of the Roman soldiers, their armour and weapons, the laws and money, ever reminded the people of this subjection to a foreign government, when, according to Old Testament prophecies, they should be free and themselves rulers of the world. The Jewish hopes of a Redeemer, of throwing off the terrible Roman yoke, of becoming the glorious nation promised them by the prophets, was in the very air they breathed! God's providence had prepared the world for His coming. All the world was subject to one government, so the apostles would be free to travel everywhere. The world was at

peace, so the gospel could have free course. The Greek language was spoken everywhere with other languages, so it would be easy to preach the gospel.

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS," Luke 1:26-31. Mary could not understand these strange words, but the angel told her, in verse 35, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." After this explanation, Mary was willing to yield herself to the word of God.

Mary was espoused to a man named Joseph. When Joseph learned of her condition, he was filled with strange perplexity. He was, however, a good man and not willing to make Mary a public example of scandal and disgrace, so he was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, an angel appeared unto him in a dream, and said, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for what which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." So Joseph being raised from his sleep took Mary for his wife, and he knew her not until her first son was born.

After these days, there went out a decree from Augustus Caesar, that all the world should be taxed. Mary and Joseph were of the house of David, so it was necessary for them to go to Bethlehem to be taxed. Thus the decree of the Roman Emperor helped fulfill God's word in Micah 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler of Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

The birthplace of Jesus was the city of historic associations. It was the city of David and the seat of

David's throne for about four hundred years. It was Rachel's burying place. Here Ruth had gleaned in the golden fields of Boaz. It was fifteen miles from Hebron, which was the home of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It was the scene of the ministry of Isaiah and Jeremiah. Here, God had dealt with man for many years.

It was approximately a hundred miles' journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This long ride on a donkey, or perhaps partly by foot, must have been very straining for a woman about to give birth to a child. Upon their arrival, Joseph immediately sought a room for his wife to rest, but door after door closed upon them. The census which Caesar had ordered had filled the quiet city with visitors who had traveled far to reach the home of their fathers, that their names might be enrolled on the Roman list. Every room had been taken, so at last Joseph and Mary sought shelter with the beasts of burden. Here in the stillness of the night Mary brought forth her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.

In those broad fields lying around Bethlehem, where Ruth began her mission of gleanings and where David watched over the flock of his father Jesse, shepherds were still watching over their flocks by night, leading them away from the dangers of the rugged precipice, protecting them from the ravages of the robber and beasts. But that night was one never to be forgotten! While the shepherds were there upon the hillside, covered by the starlit canopy of heaven, they must have talked of the coming Messiah. They would say one to another that Bethlehem of Judea, their own village, plainly visible in the bright light, was to be highly honored; for had not the prophet said that out of her should come a governor who would rule the people? They felt an inward proud feeling that their own little town had been chosen for the King. As they thus talked among themselves with great longing in their hearts, they received a message straight from the portals of glory that the Saviour had been born. Luke 2:9-11, "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day

in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The angel did not carry the message to the king or to the high priest, but to the humble shepherds. Thus the Chief Shepherd came to the underling shepherds, who were faithfully fulfilling their tasks. No sooner had the announcement of the angel ended and the fact been given that the Babe would be found wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, than a multitude of the heavenly host appeared, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."



SEASON'S GREETINGS

We have appreciated your very fine patronage for the passing year. We wish for you a very merry Christmas and added health and blessings throughout the entire new year.

Faithfully,

E. C. Clark,
Business Manager.

When this great sight was completed and the glory that surrounded them had past, the shepherds said, "Let us now go even to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass." They believed and there was no thought of delay in their minds, for they went at once to see this wonderful sight.

Many great and wonderful surprises cling to the birth of Christ. He was born of humble parentage, for Mary was the wife of a carpenter. We see His humble village of birth, Bethlehem, little among the cities of Judah. His crib was in a manger. The manger spoke of His humiliation. Had He been in a cradle bedecked with jewels of royalty, the shepherds would have possibly been afraid to seek Him. He humbled Himself and

came in fashion as a man. He was God bending low to the lowly. He was to mix and mingle with sinners that He might redeem them. What wonderful blessings were extended to man through the birth of this Christ Child!

The shepherds returned blessing and praising God because they had found the angel's message true. They realized that in that Babe was God's promise of "good will to men." The far-reaching results of the birth of that holy Babe we know today better than they knew; yet they knew that He was a child of destiny, a deliverer of Israel from her woes.

Today the Babe of Bethlehem still lives and the "sign" of God still stands. God has given to all mankind His oath that He will judge the earth in righteousness by Jesus Christ. This oath, which was set forth by the sign of the conception of the Virgin and the birth of Christ, was afterward certified and made sure by the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

We are living in the midst of a world of turmoil and strife. We are dwelling in the close of an age which finds men's hearts filled with strange forebodings of the things which are about to come to pass. He that was born King of the Jews is soon coming to take His throne, which shall be established in truth and righteousness. The Babe of the manger, who was announced as the Son of God, is now at the Father's right hand as a Prince and Saviour. Christ was Life and the Giver of life, yet He tasted death for every man. He was the Good Shepherd, yet for our sakes He became the Lamb voluntarily led to the slaughter. He was destined to become King of kings and Lord of lords, yet He was crowned with thorns and died with transgressors. His kingship was defamed. In His birth He was worshiped as King of the Jews. In His death He was crucified as King of the Jews. In His second coming back to earth He will be heralded King of kings! Friends, there are wonderful blessings for us in Christ today. He has rest for the weary and heavy laden; He has heavenly manna for the hungry; He has living water for the thirsty; He is a burden bearer for the burdened. Come to Him with your problems. The invitation is extended to whosoever will. May God bless each reader.



Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

For more than a millennium the people of Israel had looked for their Messiah. Through all the perplexities of the years their one hope had been that He would soon appear. That kept them alive. That kept spirit in their souls. When a foreign king scourged them, they remembered that their King would finally reign. When despair clouded their days, they yearned for the Sun of His Brightness. When false teachers led them astray, they remembered that He would instruct them. When bonds calloused them, they knew that He would eventually set them free. When they sagged in death, they remembered that His coming would revive them. Israel had one hope: their Messiah would set everything aright.

When the fulness of time had come, He came—not astride a pawing beast with fire snorting from its nostrils, nor yet erect in a chariot of fire with a gleaming sword in His hand; not even riding a beam of light with clustered stars for His crown. The heavens did not deliver Him with a blast from a million trumpets at the lips of the angels. He lay in a manger: a round, lovable Baby, surrounded by a tender mother, whose soft eyes stroked every line of His face with adoring caresses, and a beaming father, whose adoration and wonder were written in the deep furrows of his face. The mute beasts, whose privacy had been lost with the intrusion of this newborn Stranger, were impercipient of His greatness, and could not know that their stall

UNTO YOU

Charles W. Conn
Pastor, Leadwood, Mo.

had been glorified that night. They could not know that they had witnessed the greatest event of all time, and that they were hosts to One whose greatness would diminish the greatness of all other great men into nothingness. Joy to the world! A KING IS BORN! THE LORD HAS COME!

Silhouetted against a wine-blue sky, with stars bubbling over their shoulders, was a company of shepherds. Sleeping around them were their sheep. For some strange reason, sleep had suddenly departed from the keepers of the flocks; they sat bolt erect. Was that music? Distant, euphonious pealing? Yes! Music! Let the superb, inimitable beauty of the Bible tell its own story.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Then the celestial spectacle vanished and the music faded into the stillness of the night.

Two things which the angel said were strange. The Jews were looking for their Messiah, yet the angel said, "... which shall be unto ALL PEOPLE." It was Israel who had prophesied of Him, and it was through

Israel that He was to come. It was Israel who had suffered through long years of waiting, and it was Israel who had thought of Him night and day. And now comes a revolutionary announcement, "unto ALL PEOPLE." The angel also said, "Unto YOU is born ... a Saviour." It was not "unto Mary"; not "unto the Jews," but unto YOU! The entire world is in the scope of that announcement. It is an individual opportunity and a universal privilege. No man shall ever be barred from the saving grace of this Saviour. He is born unto the world. Mary bore Him, Israel was His heritage, but the world was His objective.

This was strange. The Jews had always been bigoted and selfish about their Jehovah (Yahweh), and they had no intention of sharing their Messiah. Rather, they expected Him to heap wrath and vengeance upon the heads of their beleaguered enemies. The Greeks could have their Zeus, the Romans could have their Jupiter, the barbarians could have their Wotan and Thor, the others could have their gods, but the Messiah, when He came, was to belong to the Jews. Yet His birth is announced in words which admit the entire earth into His bountiful mercies. So jealous were the Jews of their God, that Jonah preferred to exile himself to Spain rather than preach to the Gentile city Nineveh. They would be equally jealous of their Christ.

In the magnitude of their suffering, the Israelites forgot that others were suffering, too. Hopeless pagans grasped anything that held even faint hope for them: idols of wood, altars of sacrifice, temples to vain desire. Gentile nations longed equally with the Jews for a Messiah, but their hopes and aspirations were ill-directed and frustrated by spiritual ignorance. The gropings of the Gen-

tiles had always been in search of the true God; they wanted to know the way back to Him. They had yearned, too, for deliverance from their blindness. Their local deities had not satisfied them; they needed God—and a Guide to lead them to Him.

And now He is born. "Unto YOU." Galilean shepherds, He is yours; come and behold Him. Persian Wise Men, He is yours, too; come and adore Him. Yea, the whole benighted world, at one in sin, are free to know the redeeming mercy of Almighty God. Was this to mean some international, universal monotheism? That was precisely the dream of Jesus. The whole earth was to be His footstool, His inheritance, not just one little troubled corner lying east of the Mediterranean. And thus were all the days of Jesus spent—for YOU.

Could Christ refuse the Gentiles? They needed a Saviour, too. Even old Simeon adored Him as "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." He was born for us. He is ours. No longer would there be Jew and Gentile; there would be a common religion for a common people—Christianity. Did He not heal the Gentile as well as the Jew? At

His death did He not pray for the forgiveness of the Roman as well as the Jew? Did He limit the ultimate commission to His disciples to the confines of Israel, or did He charge them, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . ." ? This was the very thing the whole world had waited for—Rome, Greece, Gaul, Spain, Egypt, Britannia—EVERY MAN! These were strange doings in Israel. Strange, indeed. They wanted THEIR Messiah.

I. UNTO MARY: A BABE

Mary's possession was a babe. It would be difficult to believe that Jesus was not every whit a normal, excellent child. The dubious apocryphal accounts of His childhood are not always in keeping with His later nature. That He wasted His powers and gifts by causing clay birds to fly, and doing other legendary feats, is highly improbable. No doubt, the revelation to Him of His divine nature and purpose was gradual, though early, and was not heralded by premature exhibitions of divine power. His works were always purposeful, the products of a mature and divine mind. Doubtlessly, He physically led a normal, human life during His formative years, else His recognition would have come

earlier, but as an infant wonder-worker and magician and not the Christ of God. It is more plausible that He lived with Mary and Joseph in normal family relationship.

Whether or not Jesus received a formal or literary education we do not know, but we do know that His words were spiced with much contemporary knowledge and historical lore. We know that He was following Joseph in carpentry as His material vocation (Mark 6:3, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary . . . ?"). His family life was communal, for He had about four brothers and several sisters. That they respected Him and were influenced by Him is borne out by the fact that they became His disciples—and leaders in the early church.

Mary knew from the beginning that her son was really the Son of God, the Messiah. Perhaps she was at all times reconciled to the fate that must be His, but probably not. She sought to protect Him with her frail, womanly strength instead of trusting Him to allow what physical harm to Himself that He would. Every hint of His family life is that it was normal and communal with Joseph and Mary and His brothers and sisters. He was Mary's child, and that was her only exclusive claim to Him. He was no more her Saviour than He is to any person who calls on His name.

II. UNTO ISRAEL: A SON

Jesus was a Son of Israel all His earthly days. Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." His home was Jewish; His training was Jewish; His companions were Jewish; His customs were Jewish; His religion was Jewish; His lineage was Jewish. Jesus was always a Jew, not, of course, of the corrupt, worldly, infidelic set which dominated Judaism in His day. He was their enemy and exerted all that was in Him to frustrate them in their crookedness. But the pure religion of Moses, (not, again, the addended legalism of the Sadducees and Pharisees) was the teacher that taught of Him, and was perfected (fulfilled) in Him. Jesus was a Son of David, and it was His to sit upon the throne, *King of Israel*.

Jesus was a Son of Israel, and is still recognized as such (but that

(Continued on page 15)

One Night

One night
So starry bright,
Divinely blest,
Tears fell
Within her heart
So pure, so white;
No place for her
To rest that night.

One night
All radiant bright,
Serenely blest,
Love gleamed
O'er Bethlehem's town,
So pure — so white. . . .
And Mary found
Her rest that night.

One night
Celestial like,
Where cattle nod,
Silence . . . and holy breath,
So pure . . . so white,
Our Saviour, Christ,
Was born that night.

—Mabel Petriken.



The Christ of Christmas

God so loved the world that about two thousand years ago He sent His Son, born of a virgin, into this world. He was born in the city of Bethlehem of Judea. The angel of the Lord gave notice of His deity. The glory of God shone around about, as a host of heavenly beings praised God and said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," thus ushering into existence the first Christmas. Without Christ there would be no Christmas.

The Christ who makes possible all that is beautiful in man and nature came into this world in a season considered by many the most beautiful of all. Think of the ground covered by a blanket of snow, trees with their boughs glistening with crystals of many sizes and shapes. Look as the moon shines over the hills. Happy families play together and look on the beauty all around. Jesus made possible this beauty. If we were to think only of the beauty of nature and worship nature, we would not be able to have the



REV. R. R. WALKER,
General Secretary-Treasurer

sweet Spirit of Christ living within. He lives, and as long as He lives all people should celebrate this day in honor of Him.

Thinking of what Christ made possible in nature that surrounds us is not to be compared in beauty and reality with what He has done for man. Man was in sin, alienated and away from God, but His Spirit moved and possibly we heard the old familiar song,

**There is a fountain filled with blood,
drawn from Emmanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.**

We turned, we looked, we saw, we felt! We knew our sins were gone. Joy had come. A life of shame had been transformed into a life of beauty, as the glory of God shined into our hearts.

The Christ of Christmas makes this possible. May we worship and honor Him this Christmas and until He comes again.

There Is no Greater Gift

By R. L. Motsinger,
Creal Springs, Ill.

THERE IS NO GREATER GIFT to the world than the presentation of the Holy Christ Child.

The precious Lamb of the Shepherd's fold was born in the poorest circumstances, but think of the great rejoicing, with shouts of hallelujah's, that came from the heavenly host as it filled the air above the manger bed.

Our meditations are deeply solemnized upon His lodging in a humble cattle pen; however, a brilliant star drew some of the most distinguished men of all time to His reverence.

The birth of the cradled King was not in accordance with the laws of life, neither was His death.

This Lamb without a blemish possessed no magnificent palace, neither did He have a fishery, corn field, or even a place to lay His head, but He could turn water into wine, heal the sick, raise the dead, walk on the water, and spread a table for five thousand, feed them, and then have plenty of bread and fish to spare.

Christ's crucifixion was the most



heinous of crimes, but according to God's will, it was a supreme sacrifice of intense suffering that made possible redemption for all that would accept it.

No black crepe was hung on doors when He died on Calvary. Few mourned His passing. Black crepe hung over the sun, the whole earth quivered and shook beneath Him as He bore the grief-stricken load of sin. Sinners rejected Him, and accepted Barabbas, but all nature bestowed honor upon Him.

This living Redeemer preached for

some three and one-half years. None of His great messages were ever excelled. He built no church, had no finance back of Him, and never wrote a book.

In better than nineteen centuries no personality has been so outstanding. He is the central character of all human history first, now and forever. No leader will answer in His place, because He is the only assurance of everlasting life, with positive proof that He conquered death, hell and the grave, and His grace, power, glory, and life are without end.

No earthly event will ever exceed the birthday of Jesus.

This Supreme Gift of Love was free from God to all mankind. It was from His dear Son who was no respecter of persons.

Talents, donations, presents, and all that contributes to humankind throughout the world may continue to influence and achieve high honors, but never will they be superior to the SON of GOD for—

"THERE IS NO GREATER GIFT!"



The Gift of God

Mary Elizabeth Bell

Romans 6:23, "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

God gave the most precious Gift that was ever given to mankind, yet this Gift was spurned, rejected, and despised, which was none other than the only Son that God had. No greater gift could anyone give than one's only child, but God so loved the world, that He gave Him freely.

After looking down on this world one day, seeing its sins and wickedness, with no one worthy to pay the price of redemption up to that time, no permanent plan had been made, God made this great sacrifice (Jesus), and He came into this world in the form of a little Babe. Perhaps, the people said, "Oh, this is just another infant born." But He was more than that: He was the Saviour of the world; yet, there was no room in the homes for Him, instead just a common manger in which to lay on that

cold wintry night. No doubt, His mother worried as to His comfort and safety, but there was an eye focused on that lonely, cold stable that night, yes, that eye, that all-seeing eye which sees everything. He was looking down to see that His Son at least had a place to lay His little body.

So this is the way Jesus came into this world to save the people. His stay was not so long in this world, but while He was here He was ever doing good to mankind, whatever He could do to help them and for their good; He would heal the sick all day. When night came, the people would go home to rest while He went to the mountains to pray, perhaps all night and till the sun rose the next morning to dry the dew from His brow. Then He would go to the Galilee shores to teach them and do good unto them.

But the time came when His work was finished. The plan was made and mapped so plainly that even a child can find the way from earth to heaven. As the time of His departure drew near, there were very few tears or sad hearts to mourn His

passing, but the mob hastened the event by placing a crown of thorns on His careworn brow. They spit on Him, slapped Him, and abused Him in return for the many blessings He had bestowed upon the peoples of this world. They weighted Him down with the heavy cross which they forced Him to carry to Mount Calvary, to show to the world that they rejected Him as their Saviour as they did thirty-three and one-half years prior to that time, when He came to the town of Bethlehem and found no room. So He was crucified, suffered and died, and was laid in the tomb. There were no wreaths of flowers to crown His lonely grave, no funeral procession to honor the Greatest Man that had ever lived and died—Jesus, the Son of God. Yes, He died without honor in this world, but today He is at the right hand of His Father. We must not forget that those nail-scarred hands and that thorn-pierced brow and the stripes that He took with Him from this world will ever be a reminder to God that vengeance is His and He is sure to repay.

... REVIVALS ...

INMAN, S. C.—We are enjoying a wonderful revival with Derosa Hunt, of Honea Path, S. C., doing the preaching. The church here is in the best spiritual condition in which I have ever seen a church. We thank the Lord for this.—Faithfully, W. M. Morrow, pastor, 8 Leonard St.

COBBTOWN, Ga. — I praise the Lord for another good revival which has just closed at the Hillside Church of God, with Sister Mae Terry as the evangelist. It was said that several attended this meeting who had never

attended this church before. Eleven were saved, five sanctified, three filled with the Holy Ghost, and six adults added to the church.

Sister Terry has a burden for lost souls. Anyone interested in securing her for a revival may contact her at Cumming, Ga.

Since the Assembly, God has blessed the church here in a wonderful way. The membership has gone from thirty-nine to seventy-three. We give God all the praise for His blessings. We appreciate the good people of this church. It is through their consecrated lives and prayers

that the Lord has blessed us so greatly. Remember us in prayer that we will continue to move forward.—Richard F. Wilson, pastor.

STINNETT GAP, Ky. — We have closed a wonderful revival, with Brother and Sister Millard Cowdell doing the preaching. The revival ran for seven weeks. Thirty-four were saved, twenty-two added to the church, and twenty-four baptized in water. Several were sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.—Aden Morgan, clerk.

Reports **FROM THE FIELD**

MONTANA AND WYOMING MINISTERS OBSERVE EDUCATION WEEK

The ministers of Montana and Wyoming gathered at Bigtimber, Montana, for study during Education Week. Rev. F. W. Lemons, pastor of the Church of God at Lemmon, South Dakota, gave some very profitable lectures in the day sessions and brought some very uplifting messages during the night meetings. The school was held for four days, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The night meetings were given over to evangelistic services.

Some of the assigned subjects dealt with by our own ministers were: "The Minister, His Preparation and Delivery of Sermons," by Rev. Glen E. Clark; "The Minister, His Private Life, His Conduct in the World and in the Church," by Reuben H. Martin; "A Minister's Spiritual Life and His Relation to Bible Study, Fasting and Prayer," by Wesley Snyder; "A Minister's Loyalty and Responsibility as Related to God, the Church and the Unsaved," by N. W. Lowe. Brother F. S. Ash spoke to us on "Organization and Coordination of the Different Departments of the Church." Sister Ida Erickson's subject was "Personality or Power," and Sister Aurora Anderson told us of "The Value of the Sunday School and the Y. P. E. to the Church." Brother J. E. Beckman told us how "A Minister Must Depend on God."

The studies were led by the state overseer and everyone contributed toward the success of the school. The people of Bigtimber entertained the ministers and visitors royally, for which we are all very thankful. There were at least four saved during these meetings. The ministers all know each other just a little better, but above all I believe all left feeling that the minister's task is a grave one and not to be treated lightly. — William Pospisil, State Overseer.

82-YEAR-OLD READS BIBLE THROUGH 63 TIMES

Dear Brethren:

As the time is at hand for the annual World-Wide Bible Reading, I have concluded to submit the fol-

lowing with the hope that it may enthruse others to read also. I am *eighty-two years old* and have read the Good Book sixty-three times. I find that the word "Bible" is not once mentioned in any scripture verse.

In a community where I lived a few years ago, a woman who taught an adult class asked me, "Brother Spence, can a person get to heaven without holiness?" I told her the Scripture said that without holiness you can't so much as see God, so how could you get to heaven? Well, let's see how many times "holy" or "holiness" is mentioned in the Scripture. It is mentioned four hundred and thirty-six times in the Old Testament and two hundred and one times in the New Testament. It is mentioned in all the books of the Old Testament except Genesis, Judges, Ruth, 2 Samuel, Esther, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations. In the book of Leviticus, in which the law was handed down, it is mentioned ninety-four times. In the New Testament, it is mentioned in all the books except Galatians, Philipians, 2 Thessalonians, Philemon, James, 2 John, and 3 John.

NEW CHURCH

We are building a new church ten miles west of Union, South Carolina, on Highway 92. We ask all who read this to pray for us at Cross Keys.—A brother in Christ, E. M. Fincher, Union, South Carolina.

One-Thousand-Dollar Day

THOMASVILLE, N. C.—October 5 was a wonderful day for the Church of God here. That day was one-

thousand-dollar day, which was set aside to raise a thousand dollars for the building of a new parsonage. We went over the top.

Our good pastor and wife, Rev. and Mrs. Tommie Day, are doing everything possible to put the work over for the Lord. Our Sunday School is growing. We are looking for a good year, a great year, yea, the best year we have ever had here. Brother Day is a man full of courage and faith and is, without doubt, God's man for this job; but for this year's glorious victories we are not giving him the honor. We are laying it at the wounded feet of our matchless Redeemer, where it belongs.

Brother and Sister Day have a radio program on Station WTNS, at seventy-three each Sunday morning, "Radio Recital Time," 790 on your dial. God is blessing, for which we are thankful. Pray for us.—Mrs. S. A. Robbins.

MARION, N. C. — We truly praise God for victory at Marion. God is wonderfully blessing our efforts here. During the month of November, five souls were saved, two sanctified, two filled with the Holy Ghost, and two added to the church.

We sound a note of praise for our pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. C. G. Ray. They surely have the church here at heart and are working for its interest. God's healing power has been manifested here in a mighty way in the past two weeks. Several nights the evangelist did not preach, as the power fell in such a wonderful way.

Say, did you hear the announcement that the church at Marion was dead? Please don't think of her as dead any longer, but as being resurrected. If you would like to feel some of this resurrecting power, just come our way with the same mind and accord.—Mrs. Louise Austin Ward.

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UNTO YOU

(Continued from page 11)

alone) by the Jews of today. Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman, of Temple Israel, St. Louis, says on page 142 of his book, *This Is Judaism* (Willett, Clark): "My own thesis is that Jesus was born, lived and died as a Jew, intended to found no new religion, worshipped devoutly in the synagogue, subscribed to its major principles and observed its holy days and ceremonies, was a faithful exponent of the best prophetic religion, and by his courageous death merely exemplified the readiness for martyrdom which has always characterized the faithful Jew." And on that last declaration the Jewish argument breaks down. Christ was the foreordained Lamb—slain from the foundation of the world. It is in that death that we have hope and being. He *was* a Son of the synagogue, but He was also much, much more.

III. UNTO YOU: A SAVIOUR

Christ was born a babe unto Mary, a Son unto Israel, and a Saviour unto you. God had us in mind when He allowed His Son to be slain at the hands of the executioners. He was born crucified. That was because we were in need of redemption. While it is true that we received the gospel fully only after He had been rejected by His own nation, it is also true that He was merciful and fatherly to all who came to Him while He lived—Jew or Gentile. There is no doubt that it has always been the plan of God to bring back to His bosom the prodigal Gentile nations. That was always the mind of Jesus.

Your individual blessings are of concern to Christ. It is difficult at times to realize that in a time of world-wide distress God still cares for the lowly individual, but He has sent His Son to let us know that He does, and to let that be our comfort and hope.

In all God's dealings with mankind, He has always kept the individual in view. You are known and considered by Him. He has given all to you: Christmas belongs to you; the Man for whom Christmas stands belongs to you. Christ was born unto us, and is born in us—and we are His!

TESTIMONIES

I praise the Lord for what He has done for me. Sometime ago I wrote in a request for prayer and God heard and answered. He healed me of sugar

diabetes. I can't praise Him enough, He has been so good to me. The doctor thought my baby and I would both die. My prayer is that I can always live a Christian life and rear the children that He has blessed us with in the way they should go.—Mrs. B. M. Fisher, Rowan Mill, N. C.

I really praise God for what He means to me. He's a wonderful Savior. He's supplied my needs so many times. I'm glad for the time He spoke peace to my soul. I'm young and realize the devil has many traps set for young people this day and time, but I'm glad God is able to take us through this old world. Oh hallelujah, He's a real Savior. He's healed my body so many times. I could nev-

er praise His name enough. Every day is sweeter than the day before with Jesus. I have no desire whatsoever to go back in this world. As the song goes, it's a grand and glorious feeling as I go. Oh, praise God. I'm happy in the Church of God. I want my life to be a light. Also pray for me that I'll stand true and always be in the center of His will and be ready to go with Him when He comes. Just a word to lost sinners, I beg you to please come to God before it is too late. He's able to satisfy your heart.—Geneva Mixon, Andrews, S. C.

My business is not to remake myself, but to make the absolute best of what God made.—Robert Brown-
ing.

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CHRIST CAME

(Continued from page 5)

sweet the words repeat, of "peace on earth, good will toward men," let us remember that this peace must be exemplified in every Christian heart. It can only be there when Christ is supreme; when selfishness, greed and fleshly desires are subjugated by His goodness. But if we will submit ourselves to Him, He will bring it to pass. Our hopes and our prayers for universal peace will be realized in all the glittering splendor of the righteousness and equity of God, the whole-ness, the beauty and the fair play which were championed by our Lord as He walked among men, and those same virtues which have blossomed and grown in the hearts of His saints throughout the ages will, in God's own good time, burst into glorious universal fruition when the King of Glory is come again—not as the Lamb, but as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. At that glorious appearing of the great God, the Mighty Conqueror, the ills that beset men now and those that have afflicted creation will be healed; the broken hearts will be healed; the blinded eyes of the nations will be opened; the gospel of peace will be the universally accepted law of life; and Christ the Lord shall reign from shore to shore. The isles shall rejoice, the drought-stricken, parched desert will blossom as the rose. Everything will belong to all of God's people everywhere. The beauty of the harvest will enrich and delight the souls of men. Home and community life will excel the highest ideals. Those who dream of Utopia will find that the reign of Christ far surpasses all their fondest anticipation.

Let us stop for a moment and dream of that better day when all that is good, when all that is noble and worth while, when the finest and best will become the common rather than the exceptional; when nothing shall hurt nor destroy; when swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears will be used for pruning hooks; when the rattling sabers, the cannonading, and other attending confusion of war will be replaced by tranquility and harmony of peace and satisfaction without fear and without sorrow. We have all this in prospect because Jesus came, and because He gave to as many as received Him the power to become the sons of God. When we think of Christmas as the day when the first flickering rays announced

the beginning of these things which will finally result, then we desire to live as He lived and to love as He loved.

Christianity offers far more than communism, socialism, or even our own democracy. We believe that our democracy offers a way of life superior to any other philosophy or government except that of God, which is supreme in its beauty, its equity, and its benefits, whereby men become the sons of God and heirs of the wealth of the universe. Of these things we are reminded at Christmas season. His kingdom is our kingdom. Therefore, we rejoice in His love, in His power, and in His sovereignty. May the holiness and peace of that silent night of long ago bless and enrich all your hearts. This is my personal Christmas wish to all of you.

NATIVITY

*A lowly little bed of hay—
Mother Mary meek and mild,
Angel breath all white with glory,
Wrapped in peace—the dear Christ
Child.*

*Holy Gift of Love transcendent,
Child begotten, wondrous bright,
Gladdening hearts and lending mer-
cy,
Son of God, O Light of Light!*

*All Resplendent Gleam of Heaven,
Perfect and divinely blest,
Fill our souls with Thy clean radiance,
Word of God made manifest.*

—Mabel Petriken.

Trust in the Lord

Psalm 2:12, "Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

If we put our trust in the Lord, He will supply all our need according to His riches in heaven, and we know they are many. If we trust Him, He will help us to pray. If we trust in the Lord, He will solve all our problems and help us with our burdens. He will keep us from the evil of the world. Sometimes we can't trust our fellow man, but we can trust the Lord any time. He is ready to help us. We can trust Him with our bodies when we are sick. Sometimes when things are going wrong just say, Lord, I am going to trust you, and He will help. Bless His name! And if we put all of our trust in Him, we can go in the rapture when He comes after His bride. I am so glad that one day I trusted Him enough that He saved, sanctified and filled me with the Holy Ghost. Praise His name!—Mrs. Effie Wilhelm, Hickory, N. C.

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REQUESTS... for Prayer

Pray for:

The healing of Mrs. B. E. Duncan, Box 143, Widemouth, W. Va.
 Three unspoken requests; me to receive the Holy Ghost; my children to be saved.—A reader.
 My healing and for me to overcome a habit.—Beulah McCaffrey, Midland, Tex.
 My baby; my father and two brothers to be saved.—A sister.
 The healing of my husband, Reuben F. Pannell; the Lord to strengthen my body.—Mrs. Daisy Pannell, Marietta, Ga.
 A minister's home which is nearing disaster; the healing of my husband's hands; the healing of my body; an unspoken request.—Mrs. C. W. Garretson, Stephenson, W. Va.
 The healing of my body.—Mrs. Marion Ledford, Prentiss, N. C.
 The healing of my body.—Mrs. Author Sanders, Prentiss, N. C.
 My daughter's body to be healed.—Mrs. Ethel McCullough, Plant City, Fla.
 My wife to be healed; my daughter to be healed of a goiter.—C. E. Mosteller, Greer, S. C.
 My husband to be healed of stomach trouble; my unsaved children.—Mrs. Williams, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
 An urgent unspoken request.
 The healing of my body.—Mrs. Henry Perkins, West Point, Miss.
 My husband to be saved and healed; the healing of my body.—Mrs. E. C. Nelson.
 My mother, who has cancer of the stomach. Any encouragement will be appreciated. Her address is Mrs. J. M. Lee, 1409 W. 2nd St., Big Spring, Tex.—Mrs. O. C. Gilbert, Big Spring, Tex.
 The healing of my body.—Mrs. J. R. Blue, Radford, Va.
 The healing of my body, and for me to be filled with the Holy Ghost.—J. F. Painter, Altoona, Pa.
 My wife to be healed.—J. H. Likers.
 My daughter to be healed of St. Vitus's dance; me.—Mrs. Annie W. Taylor, Liberty, S. C.
 My little girl; me.—A reader.
 My sister, who has heart trouble and high blood pressure; a brother-in-law, who has heart trouble and high blood pressure; a sister, who has nervousness and throat trouble; my elderly aunt, who has cancer; me.—Florida Ryle, Hazelhurst, Ga.
 John W. Blow, Jena, La., who has been sick for several months.
 The healing of my mother, two aunts, sisters, dad and brothers; the salvation of my loved ones.—A sister, College Corner, Ohio.
 My baby, who was scalded by hot coffee; two unspoken requests.—Mrs. Ira Williamson, Lyons, Ga.
 The healing of my body.—Lula Wright, Kingsport, Tenn.
 The recovery of my eleven-year-old son, who has had flu and pneumonia.—Mrs. Charles Bullard, Monroe, Mich.
 My body to be healed.—May J. Johnson, St. Petersburg, Fla.
 The healing of my body; my children; my loved ones.—Mrs. Claude Richardson, Ramhurst, Ga.
 Mrs. R. H. Pethel, who is an old saint of God; our church in Salisbury, N. C.—Mrs. B. M. Fisher, Rowan Mill, N. C.
 A special unspoken request; my unsaved loved ones.—Mrs. John McIver, Cleveland, Tenn.
 Me to be healed of arthritis; my son to be saved.—Mrs. Lucy Edwards, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
 The healing of my body.—Mrs. Cecil Futch, Truman, Ark.
 My husband to be completely healed; my unsaved loved ones; the healing of a friend.—Mrs. Ethel Roberts, Toledo, Ohio.
 The healing of Johnie Glover, who is seriously ill.—Mrs. Handy G. Brantley, Middlesex, N. C.
 An urgent unspoken request.—A sister in Christ, Calhoun, Ga.
 The Lord to heal my body of a tumor.—Mrs. Daisy Spence, Davisport, Ky.
 My uncle to be healed of cancer; my father and three brothers to be saved; a convicted man to be saved.—Miss Mary Dively, Claysburg, Pa.

My brother, four sisters, husband and friends to be saved.—Mrs. Dina Helmadollar, Bluefield, Va.
 My husband to be saved and healed; my mother and father-in-law to be saved and healed; my body.—Mrs. Leetha Hudspeth, Starkville, Miss.
 My side to be healed.—Ida Sprouse.
 Three very urgent unspoken requests.—A believer in Christ.
 My son, who is associating with a Catholic girl; my oldest son, who was once a minister.—A sister, Detroit, Mich.
 A very urgent unspoken request.
 An urgent unspoken request.—A sister in Christ.
 My mother, who is seriously ill.—Mrs. H. Bartlett, Swannanoa, N. C.
 A very special request for a minister who is suffering with a very bad case of nervous trouble.—Tanyrallt Upper Cwmawrch, Swanses Valley, S. Wales.
 Me to be completely healed; my husband to be delivered from the drink habit.—A sister in Christ, Toledo, Ohio.
 My son-in-law to be healed.—Mariah Morse, Miami, Fla.
 The healing of my body; my husband to be saved; Mrs. Maud Vanderford; the building of our new church in Booneville.—Mrs. Sudie Lawrence, Booneville, Miss.
 God to remove every hindrance so I can serve God as He would have me to; my children and home.—A sister in Christ, Pulaski, Va.
 My boy, who is dangerously ill in the Veteran's Hospital in Los Angeles, to be healed and saved.—Sarah E. Fuller, Midland, Texas.
 The healing of my body; my husband to be saved; the healing of my daughter and for her and her husband to be saved.—Mrs. Lela Yates, Granite Falls, N. C.
 Me, Mrs. Fred Ellison, I need special prayer immediately.
 God to save our home from being wrecked.—A sister.
 Our eight-year-old daughter who is ill with scarlet fever.—C. B. Clark, Oakwood, Va.
 The healing of my body.—Bessie Jones, Knoxville, Tenn.
 The healing of a man who has been given up to die.—A sister.
 My brother, who is in the hospital, to be saved.—Mrs. Arthur Pierce, Royston, Ga.
 Jack Backstrom, McLain, Miss., to be healed of cancer of the throat and chest.

Thankful for Many Blessings

FAIRMONT, N. C.—I have so many things for which to thank the Lord, He has been so good to me. I have many burdens and heartaches to bear and He helps me bear them. The Lord answered prayer and took care of my two sons through the war and they are both back home without having had a scratch or wound. I thank the Lord because my husband came into the Church of God. Three of my family have joined the Church of God. Please pray for my son that God will use Him for His glory. We are praying that we can get near the church so we can attend services regularly and help work in the church. Pray for me to get closer to the Lord and let my light shine.—A sister in Christ, Mrs. Janie Herring.

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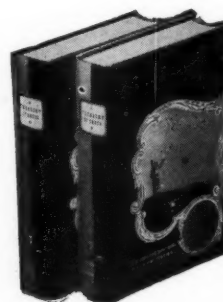
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The Meaning of Christmas

By John C. Jernigan, General Overseer

I fear that many of the American people have never really understood why we celebrate on the 25th of December. To some the *day* seems to be the important thing; others have a lot to say about Santa Claus; while thousands of others think of it as a business rush and go mad in their efforts to make all the money they can off the Christmas shoppers. To the true Christian, Christmas has a much deeper and different meaning. Our minds go back to the little city of Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago, when a man named Joseph, with his wife whose name was Mary, vainly sought shelter in an overcrowded inn. Travel-stained and weary from their long trip over the hills and plains from Nazareth, they were at last thankful to share the shelter provided for the beasts of burden.

The Shepherds Were Startled

The flocks had gathered before sunset and lay in the field waiting the dawn, guarded by their shepherds, who, with staff and club in hand, slept lightly near by. The far-stretching silence was broken only by the yelp of the distant jackal; the gloom pierced but by the stars and the glimmering lights of Bethlehem through the olives westward. Suddenly, the voice of an angel ringing over the shadowy wilderness, announcing the birth of the Messiah, startled the shepherds from slumber and the glory of God shone round about them. All the air throbbed with the strains of unearthly music, and the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of

David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord . . . And suddenly . . . a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Guided by this vision and message, the shepherds came with haste to Bethlehem and found the infant Prince wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Then "they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart," for she remembered how the angel had appeared to her announcing the birth of her first-born son, who was to be the Saviour of the world. Then the shepherds returned to their work, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had seen and heard.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO OUR FRIENDS

For many years Sister Jernigan has sent Christmas cards to hundreds of our near and close friends, but many of you won't get them this Christmas. Sister Jernigan has been sick in bed for four weeks at this writing, December 9, and will not be able for her usual Christmas work. We are glad, however, to tell you that she has greatly improved and we hope by Christmas Day will be fully recovered. We appreciate the many prayers of those who took her needs to the throne of grace.

In this little note Sister Jernigan and I send you merry Christmas greetings and wish for you a happy and prosperous new year. —John C. Jernigan

The Wise Men of the East Sought to See Him

To the wise men of the East, a beautiful and glimmering star had appeared, which attracted their attention and brought to their memories the prophecies pointing to the birth of the great and mighty King who was to rule and govern God's people. They immediately set out in pursuit of the star, seeking the infant King. Believing He would be born in the capital city in some magnificent mansion, they stopped at Jerusalem to inquire of King Herod about Him and were surprised to learn that the king had no information concerning His birth.

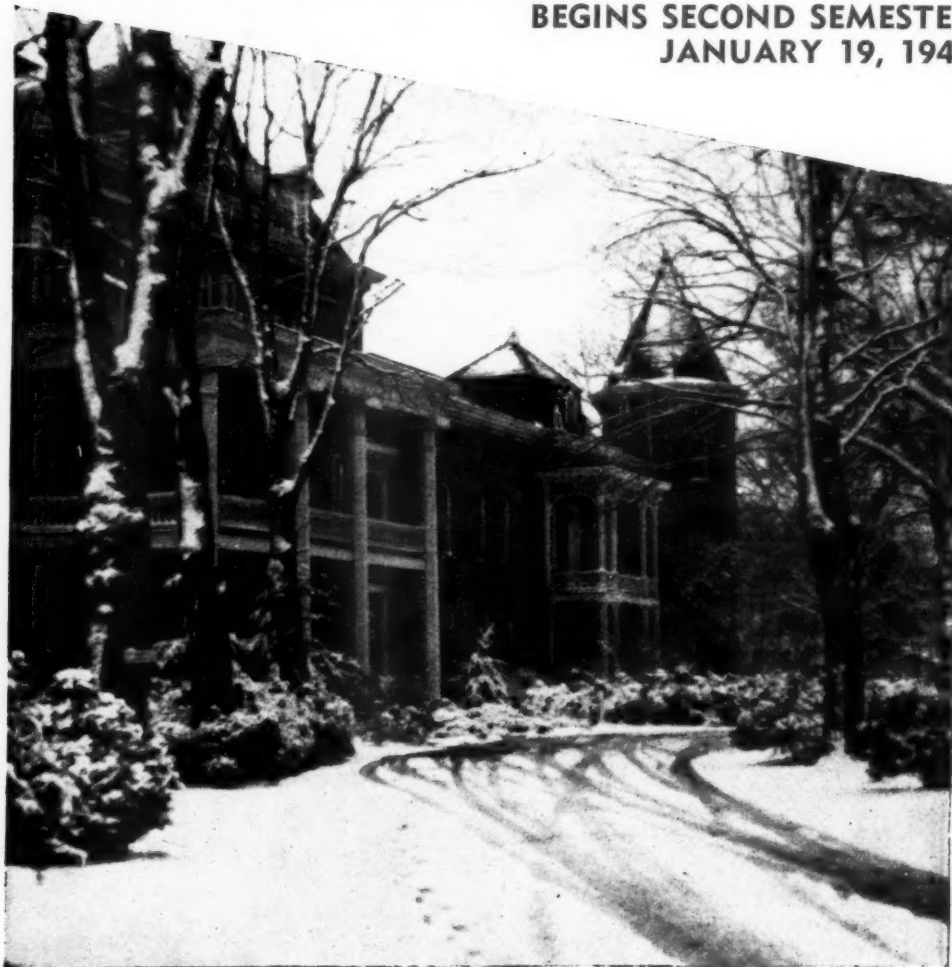
The strange story of the wise men aroused the suspicion of the king, and he called a council of the mighty men of his kingdom and inquired of them where the child should be born. Citing the Scriptures, they said, "And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

Guided by the bright and radiant star from Jerusalem southward over hills and through forest, slowly the wise men traveled to the city of Bethlehem, where the star stopped and stood over the manger wherein the young Child lay. With exceeding great joy they opened their treasures and presented unto Him kingly gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, in recognition of the infinite Gift that God had made to the world, which Gift has become a greater influence for good than any other event in the history of the world.

While the world celebrates in riotousness and drunkenness, may the true child of God celebrate his Saviour's birthday in consecration, happiness, and joy, understanding the full meaning of this celebration.

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